

Serial No. 09/813,415
Page 2 of 16

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of resources allocated to a plurality of nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning to a node a parameter indicative of the a rate of change of usage of said resources;

(b) locally monitoring, at the node, ~~[[a]]~~ the rate of change of the usage of said resources;

(c) reporting to a centralized management station of the network when the rate of change of the usage exceeds a first predetermined threshold; and

(d) initiating, ~~after a "safe" period,~~ a global poll of resources of at least one other node from the plurality of nodes of the network by the centralized management station in response to reporting from the node.

2-5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of adjusting the usage of the resources at one or more of said nodes.

7. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of a resource in nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) monitoring usage of the resource in a node to determine when a rate of change of the usage exceeds a first predetermined threshold;

(b) reporting to a management station of the network when the rate of change of the usage exceeds said first predetermined threshold; and

(c) initiating, ~~after a "safe" time period,~~ a poll of resources in the nodes of the network by the management station in response to reporting from the node or a time interval being exceeded.

Serial No. 09/813,415
Page 3 of 16

8. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of resources in nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

asynchronous reporting of an event to a management station of the network ~~of an event~~ when a rate of change of a usage of at least one resource of said resources in any of said nodes deviates from a prescribed norm; and

periodic polling of said nodes in accordance with a polling interval, and aperiodic polling of said nodes in response to reporting of said event, wherein a tunable parameter is adjusted in response to the usage.

9. (currently amended) A technique for managing a global resource of a network in order to reduce the amount of monitoring related traffic, comprising the steps of:

partitioning the global resource into a plurality of node resources, wherein each node resource is assigned to a separate node of the network;

assigning a budget to each said node resource;

reporting to a management station of the network when a node exceeds the assigned budget as determined using local monitoring of the node resource;

initiating a poll, by the management station, of node resource usage by the nodes of the network in response to ~~receiving reporting from the node wherein the assigned budget is exceeded in at least one node~~ a determination that a sum of previously reported budget values received from reporting nodes plus an upper bound of budget values for non-reporting nodes exceeds a threshold;

~~determining whether the sum of the reported values of the reporting nodes plus an upper bound of the value for the non-reporting nodes exceeds a threshold;~~ and

generating an alarm if the sum of the variables currently reported budget values, received in response to the poll initiated by the management station, of the reporting nodes exceeds the threshold.

10. (currently amended) A technique for managing a global resource of a network in order to reduce the amount of monitoring related traffic, comprising the steps

505138-1

Serial No. 09/813,415
Page 4 of 16

of:

partitioning the global resource into a plurality of node resources, wherein each node resource is assigned to a separate node of the network;

assigning to the node a rate of usage of the node resource;

reporting to a management station of the network when said rate exceeds a pre-determined threshold as determined using local monitoring of the node resource, wherein said rate is determined using a variable time interval;

initiating a poll, by the management station, of the node resource usage by of the nodes of the network in response to receiving reporting from one of the node nodes ~~wherein said rate is exceeded in at least one node;~~

determining whether the sum of the reported rates of the reporting nodes ~~plus an upper bound of the rate for the non-reporting nodes~~ exceeds a threshold; and

generating an alarm if the sum of the ~~rate of change~~ reported rates of the reporting nodes exceeds the threshold.

11. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 8 wherein said nodes are selected from the group consisting of routers, switches, bridges, and firewall devices.

12. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 8 wherein said nodes are selected from the group consisting of servers, hosts, and layer 4-7 switches.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
(e) summing all the reported rate of change of the usage of the resources; and
(f) generating an alarm if the sum exceeds a second threshold, else ~~setting the "safe" period and repeat steps (d-f)~~ updating a time interval.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
(d) summing all the reported rate of change of the usage of the resources; and
(e) generating an alarm if the sum exceeds a second threshold, else ~~setting the~~

505138-1

Serial No. 09/813,415
Page 5 of 16

~~"safe" period and repeat steps (c-e)~~ updating the time interval.

505138-1